



## Parent Forum

We value open communication and consultation at Oratory Primary School and the school's **Parent Forum** has been introduced in order to make it easier for parents to raise questions and make suggestions about the school. Our parent forum aims to represent the views of all parents and to be a voice to inform our school of the needs of children and families. Each half term, the parent reps from each class meet with Mrs Griffiths to raise questions, suggestions and concerns. Mrs Griffiths may also consult parents on future plans for the school. The forum facilitates communication between parents/carers and staff and governors, offer a parent's perspective on current policy and practice and input into decision making and planning for future provision. The next parent forum meeting will be held virtually on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### How can I raise something for discussion at the forum?

- By emailing your class rep before the meeting
- By sending a letter to the school, marked 'Parent Forum' and placed in the letterbox on the door in Bury Walk

### How will I find out what was discussed?

The questions and suggestions raised at the meeting, along with the school's response and any actions taken will be recorded in the school's newsletter, and uploaded on the school website.

**What sort of things might be raised at the forum?** The forum will be a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvement. Possible topics might include school routines, school lunches, school events, fundraising, school uniform and general curriculum questions.

**What sort of things should not be raised at the forum?** The forum is not in place to address specific concerns about an individual child or issues relating to individual members of staff. Parents who need to discuss these issues should approach their class teacher or the Deputy/Headteacher. The school's complaints policy can be found on the website.

## Newman Fund

We wrote to you last Spring, just before lockdown, to request your support in donating to our Newman Fund. Costs to the school are rising with each year that passes, but our allocated budget is not increasing enough to allow us to continue to spend as much money as we have in the past. The governors had to save £70,000 this year in order to balance the budget. Your financial support would make the world of difference if you can spare something to help us.

Most of our school budget goes on staffing. People in an institution such as ours are the cogs that enable it to work. In order to keep staffing levels as they are, we need support from you to spend on the other things that we need for our school to be a bright, clean, enriched and resourced environment. Our school achieves among the top results in country but this doesn't happen by magic, and it needs continual attention and investment to consistently thrive.

Your contributions would be used to sustain our spending on:

- Reading books, and information texts to support curriculum topics
- Furniture for classrooms
- Art materials such as clay, paint, paper, charcoal
- Music specialist teachers who are experts in their field
- Playground equipment such as cricket bats, netball hoops, and bikes and trikes for Reception
- School trips (which are always subsidised despite parents' contributions)
- Materials for practical science experiments
- Maintenance materials to keep the school bright and clean
- Computer equipment which constantly needs updating
- Speech and language therapy and Educational Psychology services to support learning
- St Luke's playground for lunch playtime to give children space to run and play
- The level of swimming lessons offered (which are higher than many other schools)
- Partnerships with curriculum specialists such as Ivydale Technology and Westminster Archives to enrich subject areas

If you plan to give regularly to a charity- please consider giving to us. It would support the school not only for your own child but for future generations. The Newman fund is not used for luxuries, it's for what we really need to keep our school running at its current level of effectiveness. Last year we were so grateful for the £40,000 raised in the Newman Fund by parents' very generous donations and monthly contributions via direct debit. This year we have raised nearly £30,000 so far, but we know that the outbreak of Covid-19 has had an impact on the fall in donations this year.

Of course we know that it's not possible for many families. It is a very difficult time globally with job losses so we completely understand if finances are too stretched for you to make a contribution this year. However, if any families can give a small amount, it would make such a difference. A coffee each day from a coffee shop costs £20 a week. That's £80 a month. Could you help us? Please pass on our details to grandparents and godparents if they are keen to contribute too.

- ✓ £10 a month (£120 a year) would pay for art materials for one class for a whole term
- ✓ £20 a month (£240 a year) would pay for colouring pencils for each class
- ✓ £50 a month (£600 a year) would pay for a day's visit from an Educational Psychologist
- ✓ £100 a month (£1200 a year) would pay for specialist music lessons for one month

We would be so grateful, and it would make a huge difference. You can find the necessary forms to donate on the parents' section of the website ([please click this link](#)) and a copy of the form will be sent home with your child next week.

## '4 Bs before me'



We encourage children to be independent learners by using the '4 Bs before me'. They should try to find ways of solving their learning question independently before asking the 'boss'! You may want to try this for homework in order to foster independence.

## Assemblies this week

Although we have not been able to have whole school assemblies, we have been participating in collective worship in class and via technology. The children have learned about kindness through the story of 'Bucket Filling' and also about finding help when you are feeling anxious through the story of 'Cody the Cautious Caterpillar'. We also looked at ways to support feelings of fear through the 5 senses grounding technique. Ask the children to tell you about it at home.

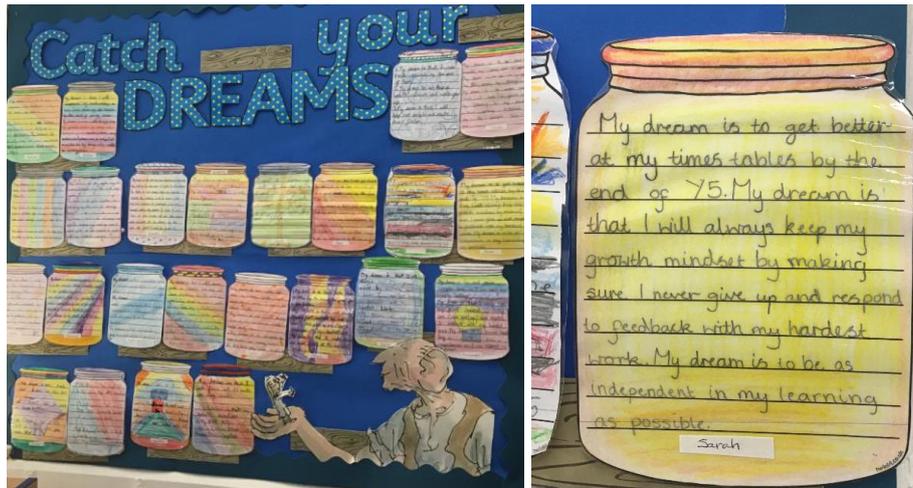
**THE 5 SENSES GROUNDING TECHNIQUE**

- LOOK**  
Name 5 things you can see
- FEEL**  
Name 4 things you can feel
- LISTEN**  
Name 3 things you can hear
- SMELL**  
Name 2 things you can smell
- TASTE**  
Name 1 thing you can taste



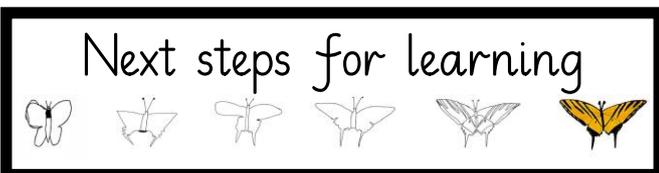
## Hopes, dreams and targets for the new school year

Each class has been thinking about some of the personal ambitions they have for the coming year. They have been planning how they will achieve their goals and develop a growth mindset by working hard. Here is Year 5's display. Their theme was 'jars of dreams' linked to their work on the BFG.



## Austin's Butterfly

Have you heard of Austin's butterfly? When thinking about their 'next steps for learning', the children have been inspired by Austin- a boy who drew these butterflies:



How old do you think he was when he drew each one? Well... actually he was six, and drew each one on the same day! His work improved because he took advice and made adjustments. Our children practised drawing animals of their own, taking advice along the way; ask them to tell you about it! [Click the link to this video to find out more.](#)

## Healthy lunch



We are very proud to have been awarded a gold healthy school's award in May by the Mayor of London. As such, we ask that you keep children lunches healthy, with no sweets, crisps, chocolates or fizzy drinks. In addition, please remember to cut grapes in half as they are a choking hazard, and **ABSOLUTELY NO NUTS ALLOWED** due to pupils with severe allergies.

## PA news

Dear Parents,

To all of you, whether you're returning to the Oratory after the summer break or a new family here: welcome! For those of you who don't know me I'm Alex Yates and I run the Parents Association. Nathalie Goelz is the Vice-Chair. I have a daughter in Year 4 and Nathalie has two sons in Year 6 and Year 2. We are thrilled to have a fabulous team of PA reps working with us this year. Thank you to all of you for stepping up to the job! I'm sure you already know your rep and they're your first port of call for queries, but please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or Nathalie (via Classlist) as well.

My focus for this newsletter is the second hand uniform as I know many of you are keen to get hold of items. Obviously we're not able to hold our twice termly coffee morning and uniforms sales, but we are sorting out a system as quickly as possible to get the pieces you need to you. As access to the school is understandably limited, putting an inventory of items together is going to be a slow process. Thank you Mrs Ha for kindly storing some of the uniform, which has been huge help!

I have set up an email address for you to email us with your uniform requests: [oratoryuniform@gmail.com](mailto:oratoryuniform@gmail.com)

There will be a few of us monitoring the email, but I am only able to get to the uniform in school once a week. Apologies if there is a delay in responding to your request, but we will do our utmost to find what you want and get it to you as quickly as possible. I will also put our fabulous Oratory hair accessories on line too, so you can order them. We have a really wonderful selection of hair bands and Alice bands that complement the uniform beautifully.

That's all for now. I wish you all a lovely weekend, Alex Yates (PA Chair)

## Self Portraits



Over past two weeks every child in the school has completed a self-portrait which will be on display in the corridors for all the children to see. From pixelated faces and Modigliani inspired work to collage and observational drawing- there are certainly some wonderful skills on show! We are looking forward to nurturing the artistic talents of our little Picassos this year!

## Every Mind Matters – supporting our children and young people

As we all know, the past few months have been hard on everyone, including our children. But there are lots of things we can do to support them at this time. Public Health England's Every Mind Matters initiative provides tips and advice to help parents and carers support children and young people and spot signs that their children may be struggling with their mental wellbeing and understand how to support them. Please use this link for further information <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>.

If your child is particularly struggling emotionally at this time, please contact your child's teacher, or Mr Patrick Alton, the school's Senior Lead for Mental Health. They can help and support you.